D⦾T Link

The Marine Transportation System (MTS)

Trucks and trains bringing things we need are familiar sights – more familiar than container ships. We're not always aware of how much we use water for trans-portation. However, the MTS is essential to our daily lives.

The MTS is the system of waterways, ports and intermodal landside connections, which allows ships, trains, and trucks to move people and goods to, from, and on the water.

The MTS helps the economy grow, strengthens national defense, and improves the quality of life. It contributes 78 billion dollars to the gross domestic product, generates 16 million jobs, provides fishing grounds for 26,000 vessels -- *and* it brings us our breakfast bananas. The list goes on.

MTS is a ONE DOT "Flag-ship" team initiative. USCG and MARAD lead the team, but it includes members from FHWA, FTA, FRA, RSPA, SLSDC, OST, and BTS plus nine non-DOT agencies. MTS is also a public / private partnership. Its impact extends far beyond the water's edge! *Jeff High (USCG) and Ray Barberisi (MARAD) lead the MTS Flagship Team.*

For more information about the MTS

Go to

http:**www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m**/mts/index.htm

Creed for Optimists

Christian D. Larsen

⇨ Be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
⇨ Talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.
⇨ Make all your friends feel there is something special in them.
⇨ Look at the sunny side of everything.
⇨ Think only of the best, work only for the best, and expect only the best.
⇨ Be as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
⇨ Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
⇨ Give everyone a smile.
⇨ Spend so much time improving yourself that you have no time left to criticize others.
⇨ Be too big for worry and too noble for anger.

Who Moved My Cheese?

The best-selling book by Spencer Johnson, M.D. is about how to deal with change in your work and in your life. Come see and discuss the animated movie … this deceptively simple 13 minute movie contains profound truths about change.

When: 1/17, 12:00 noon
Where: Nassif Room 2227
To Register: Call x69453

Rollback of CSRS and FERS Withholdings Rates

P.L. 106-346, signed by the President on 10/23/00, rolls back CSRS and FERS withholding rates for all employees, other than Members of Congress, to those in effect before 1999. The new lower rates will be effective on the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after 1/01/01. [The 0.1 percent increase in CSRS and FERS withholdings rates will be effective in 1/01 only for Members of Congress.]

If you want a place in the sun, you must leave the shade of the family tree.

Osage Saying

TASC *Service / Value / Success*

Please notify the center in advance if you need special accommodations for the programs below.

Career Connections Workshops

Resume Writing -- 1/4
Creative KSA's -- 1/9
Federal Applications -- 1/10
ONE DOT RAP -- 1/17
Interviewing Techniques -- 1/19
Listening Techniques -- 1/25
Projecting a Professional Image -- 1/30

Workshops will be held in PL-402. Space is limited. Call x69392 [TTY 67630] for the times and to register.

Worklife Programs
[Call x66389 or TTY 67630]
- ☛ Long Term Care Insurance Seminar, 1/9, 12-1 pm, USCG Room 6103
- ☛ Elder Care Resource Fair -- 1/18, 11:30-1:30 pm, DOT Eatery
- ☛ Elder Care Discussion Group -- 1/23, 12-1 pm. PL-402

Computer Maintenance
To optimize the use of your computer, about once a month do the following:
- Delete temp files from your Windows directory. [Right click the Start button, click Explore, click C drive, click Windows, click Temp, click Edit, click Select All, hit delete button.]
- Delete Netscape temp files. [Right click the Start button, hit explore, click on C drive My Documents, click Netscape, click users, click default, click cache, click Edit, click Select All, hit delete button.]

- Empty your Recycle Bin. [Double click on your Recycle Bin icon, click File, click Empty Recycle Bin.]
- Run Scan Disk for your hard drive. [Click Start button, click Programs, click Accessories, click System Tools, click Scan Disk.]
- Defrag your hard drive. [Start button, click Programs, click Accessories, click System Tools, click Disk Defragmenter.]

YOU'RE DONE and your computer should work much more efficiently for the doing! [Note, if your computer freezes up along the way, you will have to call your Help Desk to perform the maintenance for you.]

Managing Performance and Conduct
One of the most difficult aspects of being a supervisor is successfully managing employee performance and conduct. Left unchecked, conduct and performance problems can adversely affect an organization's ability to efficiently carry out its mission. Unfortunately, in most cases, these problems do not just go away. They tend to become more problematic and more difficult to correct over time, and some type of direct supervisory action is generally required.

Supervisors often find it difficult to develop an effective intervention plan. But never fear, help is available. The key is early action and coordination with your servicing human resource staff. Early supervisory intervention can frequently result in problems being resolved before any formal adverse personnel action becomes necessary.

If your organization is experiencing employee performance or conduct problems, contact your servicing human resource specialist for assistance in identifying a course of action to the situation you are facing.